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Press Service,  
U. S. Department of Agriculture.

PROVIDING ENOUGH  
GOOD STORAGE PLACES

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"That woman is not instantly interested in a description of a new home that has enough closets of the right kinds--places for everything, and everything in its own place?

In addition to the necessary food storage places--pantry shelves or cabinet for current and reserve supplies, shouldn't we all have one or more clothes closets in every bed-room, a coat closet in the lower hall, a linen closet near the bath-room, and a medicine cabinet within it? Also a second cleaning tool closet on the second floor, and a clean storage place for boxes and trunks, in the attic or the basement?

The whole subject of suitable storage places in a home bears such an important relationship to the general harmony of family life that the committee on household management of the President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership has devoted a section of its report to it. Several members of the Bureau of Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture have served on this committee and have made constructive suggestions on the best arrangement of homes to further good management.

"The unpleasant emotional state of one who is seeking lost articles, the time wasted in searching, and the disorder caused by misplaced articles, give rise to discord and discontent," says the report. "The morale of the family is often thus lowered, and contentment with a house otherwise satisfactory is impaired. Articles left lying about may suffer unnecessary wear and tear through lack of protection from sun, moisture, dust, vermin, or other deleterious influences."

"The necessity for storage, the location, type, and space required are preferably taken into account when the house is being planned. Frequently there



are spaces which with a little thought, effort, and small expense could be converted into useful closets. Space under the eaves, under the stairs, near chimneys, in corners, in furred out walls, or the entire end of rooms can be used to good advantage for cupboards, closets, and other built-in facilities.

"Closets and other storage spaces may be made more usable by the addition of hooks, rods, cleats, racks, and partitions. In addition to furthering the efficient use of spaces, these devices serve to indicate space allotted to specific articles. Labeling is a further aid to order in storage of possessions. Frequent discarding of little used or unused articles releases more and better space for articles of value."

Here are five points emphasized by the committee:

1. Store similar articles together, near the place where they are used. The things most often used should be most easily reached.
2. Arrange articles so that each can be removed <sup>out</sup> with/displacing something else.
3. For frequently used articles, plan to avoid stooping and high reaching.
4. Provide protection from deleterious conditions--dust, moisture, sun, bacteria, and vermin.
5. Avoid wasting space by planning the storage unit to fit the size, shape, and position of the article to be stored. In other words, it may be necessary to build or plan storage units around the articles to be stored.

Some special storage places are mentioned by the committee as well as those first referred to. How about closet space in or near the dining-room for table leaves? A closet or cabinet for children's toys, in the child's own room, the living-room, or the place most used by the children for indoor play? A coat closet for the children or farm hands near the back entrance with pole or hooks at convenient height? A place for sewing equipment, the dress form, supplies and piece-boxes? Good places to store garden tools, out-of-door games, window screens, unused baby carriage, and so on?

Every home needs some place to keep labeled boxes of summer clothes in winter, and moth-protected winter clothes in summer. Where should extra blankets and comfortables be kept? Vases for flowers? Sheet music? Papers and current magazines, family business papers, keys?

A ventilated closet in the bath-room is especially recommended in addition to the medicine cabinet and a closet for toilet supplies. The particular storage places most needed will differ in each home, but it pays to list all of these suggestions and check the ones most important to your home.

